THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been set up as per provision under article 338 of the Constitution. No decision has been taken to bifurcate the Commission.

Plans and schemes for assistance to disabled

*399. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the plans and schemes for giving assistance to the disabled;

(b) the amount allocated in the budget this year for the purpose;

(c) the utilisation so for; and

(d) the amount fixed for the North-Eastern States and the manner in which it will be distributed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Six National Institute are functioning in the country for providing specialized manpower development and rehabilitation services in different disabilities. Five Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) as extended arms of the existing national level institutions and four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for spinally injured have also been set up. A National Programme of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), a State Sector Scheme has been launched for providing hierarchical services delivery system starting with grass-root level. For ensuring decentralized availability of rehabilitation services, more than 100 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are also being set up in the country.

To promote self-employment and for extending soft loans for pursuing professional/technical education and assisting technical and entrepreneurial skills to persons with disabilities, the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been set up with an authorized share capital of Rs. 400 crores.

The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is manufacturing and providing various types of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Council of India is constituted for regulating and monitoring the training of rehabilitation professionals, promoting research in rehabilitation and special education and the maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register. The Council has also started a Bridge Course for unqualified special teachers/rehabilitation workers and orientation training for medical officers working in Primary Health Centres.

Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are running rehabilitation centers for leprosy cured persons, manpower development centres for mental retardation and cerebral palsy, special schools and vocational centres with the financial support from the Central Government.

Financial assistance is also given by the Central Government for Purchase/ fitting of aids and appliances, use of mass media, exhibition, workshops, etc.

A sum of Rs. 260.44 crores (Plan Rs. 231.93 crores+Non-Plan Rs. 28.51 crores) has been allocated for the schemes/programmes for the Welfare of the disabled in 2001-2002 out of which an expenditure of Rs. 86.37 crores (Plan Rs. 72.87 crores+Non-Plan Rs. 13.50 crores) has been incurred so far.

A lump-sum provision of Rs. 65.44 crores has been made for implementation of the schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the North-Eastcrn Region and Sikkim for the fiscal year 2001 - 02. The amount utilized in these areas for assistance to the disabled will be booked to this head of account.

Foreign investment in advertising and film Sector

*400. SHRI K. M,SAIFULLAH
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit 100 per cent foreign investment in advertising and film sector;

(b) if so, whether this would be through the automatic route;

(c) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) the preventive measures that are being introduced?